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CLASSIFICATION		SECRET
COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT
TOPIC		Fall Exercise of the Eighth Gds Army
EVALUATION	PLACE OBTAINED	25X1
DATE OF CONTENT		25X1
DATE OBTAINED	DATE PREPARED	25 October 1955 25X1
REFERENCES		
PAGES	ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)	25X1
REMARKS		
This is UNEVALUATED Information		
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1. At 1400 on 1 October 1955, an engineer unit from Aken was entrained at the Dessau freight station. The shipment included several N2P pontoons, 1 saw frame, 1 trench digger, 3 dredgers and 25 trucks and an undetermined number of soldiers, who wore black-bordered black epaulets. The shipment left toward Leipzig. ¹ 25X1
2. A total of 280 converted boxcars and 1,700 flatcars including 270 heavy-duty flatcars had to be made available for loadings which started in Halle on 2 October. ²
3. At 0930 on 2 October, 20 two-axle trucks each towing a gun with protective shield, presumably a 85-mm AA gun, were seen in front of the Kahla railroad station. At about 1000, additional guns of this type and several trucks mounting 20-mm AA guns were seen near Jena en route toward Kahla. Four of the trucks towed canvas covered two-axle trailers presumably carrying searchlights or sound locators. Numerous fresh imprints of tank tracks were observed on the Jena-Kahla road. ³
4. On 4 October, 16 trucks, 9 tanks, 6 heavy guns, 2 range finders and 3 searchlights were seen in a depression west of Schoeps between the road and the Jena-Kahla railroad line. All weapons and vehicles, except for the searchlights, were well camouflaged. Two machine guns were emplaced immediately on the road. Trucks were seen near Schoeps. ⁴ 25X1
5. At about 1225 on the same day, a train with 28 T-34/85 tanks and 6 converted boxcars with soldiers passed through Kahla and proceeded toward Rudolstadt. ⁵
6. Between 2 and 5 October, maneuvers were held in the Weimar-Erfurt-Bad Berka area. It was learned that the units from Weimar left the post during the night of 3/4 October. The only unit, which was observed during the departure, was a tank unit with 6 T-34/85 tanks, which left at 1500 on 4 October. On 5 October, intensive air activity was observed over the Weimar-Erfurt area. ⁶

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7. Between 1730 and 1915 on 4 October, the infantry unit from the Blücher Kaserne (8381) in Naumburg left toward Jena. ⁷

8. Between 30 September and 7 October, numerous individual vehicles and small columns passed through Blankenhain from east to west and vice versa. The following vehicles were observed: trucks including some with telephone poles, signal equipment and fuel drums, field kitchens, radio trucks, armored trucks, and sedans including an amphibious sedan. ⁸

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9. On 8 October, the following observations were made in Blankenhain:

1500. Six buses and 21 sedans passed through the town.

1500 to 1520. According to noise, a major air force unit crossed the area. Artillery fire was heard from a southern direction; it was still going on at 2200.

After 1800. Columns including artillery, 8 x 120-mm mortars, 8 x 85-mm AT guns, 10 to 15 M-31 rocket launchers and 10 x 37-mm AA guns, 6 to 8 full-track tractors towing guns and 9 field kitchens in operation went continually from east to west. No tanks or SP guns were seen.

At about 2200, a column about 3 kilometers long was seen standing on the Blankenhain-Bad Berka road, headed toward Bad Berka. The column was led by several armored scout cars and motorcycles. Most of the vehicles of the column were apparently guns, including 122-mm field howitzers, 37-mm AA guns and M-31 rocket launchers. ⁹

10. At about 1840 on 3 October, 14 T-34/85 tanks, 2 SU-100 guns, 4 trucks, each occupied by about 20 soldiers, 2 field kitchens and 2 trucks with ammunition left the Pioneer Kaserne (8522) in Weissenfels for the freight station. ¹⁰ At about 2230 on 5 October, 20 trucks including 10 trucks, each of which was occupied by 10 to 20 soldiers, passed through Weissenfels, the column came from the direction of Merseburg and proceeded toward Naumburg.

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1. Comment. This engineer unit may have left for the maneuver area of the Eighth Gds Army. ¹¹

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2. Comment. The number of railroad cars corresponds to approximately 40 trains. It is possible that the 21st Gds Iecz Div was entrained for the fall exercise of the Eighth Gds Army. ¹²

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3. Comment. This movement was probably connected with shipments from Wustrow to Goeschwitz which were observed on 2/3 October. ¹³

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4. Comment. This observation supplements information on this area of 2 October. ¹⁴ The motor vehicle ¹⁵ belong in the area of the Eighth Gds Army.

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5. Comment. The unit was transferred in order to participate in the fall exercise. ¹⁶

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6. Comment. The area mentioned is believed to be only part of the maneuver area and the date of 2 to 5 October is believed to indicate only the date of assembly of some of the participating units. See [] Comment 9. The tank unit, which left Weimer, presumably belonged to the 65th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div. 25X1
7. Comment. The installation is believed to be occupied by the 170th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div, which apparently also left for the maneuver area. See [] Comment 10. 25X1
8. Comment. The columns, which passed through Blankenhain, presumably belonged to the concentration movement of a maneuver group west of the Saale River which [] [] presumably involved the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. 25X1
9. Comment. Combat activities apparently started on 8 October. The composition of the columns (no tanks or SF guns) which passed through Blankenhain on 8 October tends to indicate that the units involved withdrew from an enemy attacking from the east. 25X1
10. Comment. The installation quarters the 17th Gds Tank SF Regt of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. The tank unit was presumably entrained in order to participate in the fall exercise of the army. 25X1

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